

CLAIMS

1. A synthetic multivalent T cell receptor (TCR) complex for binding to a MHC-peptide complex, which TCR complex comprises a plurality of T cell receptors specific for the MHC-peptide complex.

5 2. The TCR complex according to claim 1, wherein the T cell receptors are $\alpha\beta$ T cell receptors having an α chain and a β chain.

3. The TCR complex according to claim 2, wherein the α chain and β chain are soluble forms of T cell receptor α and β chains.

10 4. The TCR complex according to ~~any preceding claim~~, wherein the T cell receptors are in the form of multimers of two or more T cell receptors.

5. The TCR complex according to claim 4, wherein the multimer is a trimer or a tetramer.

15 6. The TCR complex according to ~~any preceding claim~~, wherein the T cell receptors are associated with one another via a linker molecule.

7. The TCR complex according to claim 6, wherein the linker molecule is a multivalent attachment molecule such as avidin, streptavidin or extravidin.

20 8. The TCR complex according to claim 7, wherein at least one of the T cell receptor α or β chains is derived from a fusion protein comprising an amino acid recognition sequence for a modifying enzyme such as biotin.

9. The TCR complex according to claim 8, wherein the T cell receptors are biotinylated.

25 10. The TCR complex according to ~~any preceding claim~~, comprising a multimerised recombinant T cell receptor heterodimer having enhanced binding capability compared to a non-multimeric T cell receptor heterodimer.

30 11. A multivalent TCR complex comprising a multimerised recombinant T cell receptor heterodimer having enhanced binding capability compared to a non-multimeric T cell receptor heterodimer.

5 i) a recombinant T cell receptor α or γ chain extracellular domain having a first heterologous C-terminal dimerisation peptide; and

ii) a recombinant T cell receptor β or δ chain extracellular domain having a second C-terminal dimerisation peptide which is specifically heterodimerised with the first dimerisation peptide to form a heterodimerisation domain.

14. The TCR complex according to claim 12 or claim 13, wherein
15 the heterodimerisation domain is a coiled coil domain.

16. The TCR complex according to ~~any one of claims 12 to 15,~~
comprising a flexible linker located between the T cell receptor chains and
the heterodimerisation peptides.

17. The TCR complex according to any one of claims 10 to 16, wherein the T cell receptor is expressed in an *E. coli* expression system.

18. The TCR complex according to ~~any one of claims 10 to 17,~~ ^{claim 1} wherein the T cell receptor is biotinylated at the C-terminus.

19. The TCR complex according to ~~any preceding claim~~, wherein the T cell receptors are associated with a lipid bilayer.

20. The TCR complex according to claim 19, wherein the lipid bilayer forms a vesicle.

21. The TCR complex according to claim 20, wherein the T cell receptors are attached at the exterior of the vesicle.

22. The TCR complex according to claim 20 or claim 21, wherein the T cell receptors are attached to the vesicle via derivatised lipid components of the vesicle.

23. The TCR complex according to claim 19 or claim 20, wherein the T cell receptors are embedded in the lipid bilayer.

24. The TCR complex according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 18,~~ wherein the T cell receptors are attached to a particle.

25. The TCR complex according to ~~any preceding claim,~~ further comprising a detectable label.

26. The TCR complex according to ~~any preceding claim,~~ further comprising a therapeutic agent such as a cytotoxic agent or an immunostimulating agent.

27. The TCR complex according to ~~any preceding claim,~~ in a pharmaceutically acceptable formulation for use *in vivo*.

28. A method for detecting MHC-peptide complexes which method comprises:

- (i) providing (a) a synthetic multivalent T cell receptor complex comprising a plurality of T cell receptors, and/or (b) a synthetic multivalent T cell receptor complex comprising a multimerised recombinant T cell receptor heterodimer having enhanced binding capability compared to a non-multimeric T cell receptor heterodimer, said T cell receptors being specific for the MHC-peptide complexes;
- (ii) contacting the multivalent TCR complex with the MHC-peptide complexes; and
- (iii) detecting binding of the multivalent TCR complex to the MHC-peptide complexes.

29. The method according to claim 28, wherein the multivalent TCR complex is provided with a detectable label.

30. The method according to claim 28 or claim 29, for detecting cells presenting a specific peptide antigen.

31. The method according to any one of claims 28 to 30, wherein the multivalent TCR complex is a multivalent TCR complex according to any one of claims 1 to 27.

32. A method for delivering a therapeutic agent to a target cell,
5 which method comprises:

- (i) providing (a) a synthetic multivalent TCR complex comprising a plurality of T cell receptors, and/or (b) a synthetic multivalent TCR complex comprising a multimerised recombinant T cell receptor heterodimer having enhanced binding capability compared to a non-
10 multimeric T cell receptor heterodimer, said T cell receptors being specific for the MHC-peptide complexes and the multivalent TCR complex having the therapeutic agent associated therewith;
- (ii) contacting the multivalent TCR complex with potential target cells under conditions to allow attachment of the T cell receptors to the
15 target cell.

33. The method according to claim 32, wherein the multivalent TCR complex is a multivalent TCR complex according to any one of claims 1 to 27.